Suddenly
from heaven
there came a sound
like the rush of a violent
wind, and it filled
the entire house
where they were sitting
Acts 2:2

Soundings

News and Information from the
Northwest Washington Synod
of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Volume 25 Number 3 *March 2008*

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Cederberg Receives Recognition

by The Rev. Jan Nesse, Assistant to the Bishop

At the 2008 Youth Ministry Network's Extravaganza, Janet Cederberg, Associate in Minstry, from Our Savior in Issaquah was awarded a plaque for her work as a member of the board of the Youth Ministry Network.

Janet has served on the board through the transformation of this national organization of Lutheran Youth Ministers. "The Network" as it is commonly called, sponsors the annual *Extravaganza* which is a three-day training, discussion, and networking for youth workers in the Lutheran Church. In addition, the Network renews, educates and connects youth workers. These three words are the key lynch pins for Youth Ministry Network.

This year the Northwest Washington Synod was represented at the Extravaganza with about 15 youth leaders and synod staff. As Janet leaves the board, the goal of the synod is to connect all youth leaders, professional or volunteer, to the resources of the network.

If you would like to get your congregational youth leaders engaged in this important work that we do together, call Janet at Our Savior and let her tell you the benefits to kids, families and congregations. You can also visit www.elcaymnet.org for more information.

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Local Men Learn To Be In Mission Together

Our Synod's Lutheran Men in Mission (LMM) group recenlty held two workshops. One workshop was held in December at Prince of Peace in Everett and the February workshop was at Grace in Des Moines. Twenty men from eight different congregations participated. We are looking forward to our next workshop to be held at Bothell First Lutheran on Saturday, April 12.

The goal for each workshop is to share ideas about Men's Ministries by using the leadership guide found in the front of the Master Builders Bible. We are also introducing new men's ministry leadership book *Men's Ministry In The 21st Century: The Encyclopedia Of Practical Ideas,* published by Group Publishing Inc. Each workshop participant is encouraged to ask questions and to share ideas that can be used to build the men's ministries in their home congregations.

You can learn more about this ministry and events by registering for our free LMM Task Force newsletter at http://ourmim.org/Events.html or phone 360-658-0461 or email Ron Sailer at Sailer@Lutheransnw.org

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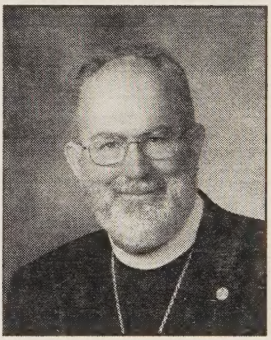
Deadline for the April 2008 issue of Soundings *and* The Spirit *is Wednesday, March 5 Send information to: Margit Peiffle, 21721 88th Ave. NE, Arlington, WA 98223; margit@lutheransnw.org; 425-299-6667; fax 360-435-5955.*

Permission is granted for congregations to copy Soundings *and* The Spirit. *Newsletters are available to download at www.lutheransnw.org/News&Info.*

A Word From The Bishop



The Reverend
Wm Chris Boerger

Normally there is a Biblical text that serves to set the theme for this article. I am not starting with one this month. That is not because my topic is not part of our faith and life. It is because I am dealing with our common commitments as an institutional church. I want to point out that we are missing out on an opportunity to lower the cost of medical coverage for our leaders.

As of this writing 40.3 percent of those covered by the Board of Pensions have taken the Health Risk Assessment. When 75 percent of those covered have taken this assessment, then the cost of health care will be reduced by two percent. This is not a painful process. It involves responding to an internet survey. When the survey is completed, money is added to your personal health savings account and you can start earning points toward additional financial support of your HSA.

I want to encourage rostered leaders and their covered spouses to take the assessment. Stewardship of our physical bodies is a faithful use of the gift of life we receive from God. The assessment is a tool to bring to our attention the risk factors that affect our lives. What we do with that knowledge is still our personal decision. Not knowing is not a benefit to ourselves or those who care for us.

During the first 18 months as bishop I began my sermon time in congregations asking congregational members to ask their pastors how they were living healthy lives. Congregational leaders now have a financial stake in at least our taking the risk assessment. Since the Soundings goes to these leaders, I would ask them to encourage their pastors and staff to take the assessment.

Being a leader does mean setting an example. If we turn our backs on our physical, emotional, spiritual and financial health, we fail to be the leaders we have been called to be. To the 1/3 of those covered through the Board of Pensions who have taken the assessment, I want to encourage you to address the risk factors that you have identified. Weight, exercise and stress management are risk factors I will need to address.

In the language of the Board of Pensions, "have you taken the first step?" Taking that step will benefit the your awareness of your health and will free congregational assets for other ministries. If you have questions, you can check the Board of Pensions website, www.elcabop.org or call the synod office.

State Advocate's Corner

by David Coombs, Intern, and Manda Truchinski, Intern

Lutheran Public Policy
Office of Washington State

dcoombs@lcsnw.org
mtruchinski@lcsnw.org

206-464-4133
www.lppowa.org

We are proud to report that Faith Advocacy Day in Olympia this year was a success! More than 170 people of faith braved the threat of snow and made it out for the day. We also were able to hear from many of our community partners and elected officials throughout the day.

Over the past several years the day, organized by the Lutheran Public Policy Office of Washington State, has grown from a smaller, exclusively Lutheran event, to a larger ecumenical witness co-sponsored by Earth Ministry, Friends Committee on Washington Public Policy, the Washington Association of Churches among others.

Attendees began the day at Olympia's Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd with worship, followed by a legislative update and advocacy tips from the Director of the Lutheran Public Policy Office, Rev. Paul Benz, and attended briefing sessions on a wide variety of social justice issues before the legislature.

The day's commitment to advocating for justice was evident in the issues highlighted in the morning briefing sessions and throughout the day. Legislative items included a Working Families Tax Credit (HB 3235, SB 6526), a $100 million dollar expansion of the Housing Trust Fund, Local Farms / Healthy Kids (HB 2798, SB 6483), and the full elimination of the co-pay on all school lunches.

One of the great highlights was hearing from Senator Dan Swecker, Representative Mark Miloscia and Representative Mauree Walsh in the rotunda of the capitol building.

While our lobbying day was a great success we want to stress that the session is not yet over and your voice is needed in Olympia. There are many ways that you can contact your elected officials and weigh in on issues that will affect us across the state.

- Call your legislators. The legislative hotline is open Monday through Saturday during session. Call 1-800-562-6000.
- Write to your congress persons. Snail mail and email are both effective methods of communication with those who represent you. All mailing information can be found at www.leg.wa.gov.
- Visit Olympia! At the very least, a staff member will always be able to meet with you and you will make a lasting impression!

Last of all, the Lutheran Public Policy Office is always working on your behalf to represent the voice of the ELCA in Washington State. Support of our office ensures the continuance of this ministry. For a way to support LPPO please save the date on your calendar for our upcoming annual fundraiser: "Sowing Seeds for Justice" will take place on Sunday, April 27. Contact the LPPO office for more information.

Draft Of The ELCA Social Statment On Sexuality

The draft of the ELCA proposed social statement on human sexuality will be available Thursday, March 13. The Task Force for ELCA Studies on Sexuality met in January to complete its work on the draft and give final instructions to its writing team.

The task force received a final report on responses for "Free in Christ to Serve the Neighbor: Lutherans Talk about Human Sexuality" -- part three of the "Journey Together Faithfully" study materials for members of the ELCA -- and the group spent eight sessions reviewing draft material of the social statement in closed, off-the-record sessions.

"When social statements are in the actual process of being written, things are very fluid," said the Rev. Peter Strommen, bishop, ELCA Northeastern Minnesota Synod, Duluth, and task force chair. "This is our last meeting before the draft is released. The task force continues to work very hard, securing participation from the entire group," he said.

Members of the church can expect a draft document that is theological and examines human sexuality from a "deep Lutheran perspective," said Strommen. He said the task force hopes the social statement will serve to benefit the church's discussion on the topic of human sexuality.

"A social statement needs to build a theological foundation that engages the social context. On something as broad and complex as human sexuality, specific topics cannot be addressed comprehensively. The social statement's implementing resolutions will lift up the areas that need greater attention from this church," said Strommen.

"One way of picturing the social statement is a bridge. We seek to fashion a theological bridge that can handle the heavy traffic of human sexuality issues of our times and (to) do so without losing our evangelical focus," said Strommen.

The draft of the proposed social statement on human sexuality will be posted at http://www.ELCA.org/faithfuljourney and sent to clergy and other professional leaders of the ELCA.

Between March and November, a series of hearings on the draft document will be held across the church. Members of the task force will participate in the hearings and gather feedback on the draft until Nov. 1.

A proposed social statement on human sexuality is due in early 2009. The final proposed statement will be given to the ELCA Church Council with a request to place the document on the agenda of the 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly for action. The assembly will be held Aug. 7-13, 2009, in Minneapolis.

Gloria Dei Fund

The Gloria Dei Endowment Fund Committee will meet on Thursday, May 1 to consider requests for grants. In order to be considered, requests must be received by April 20. The brief grant request form is available online at www.lutheransnw.org/leadership/gloriadei.asp. Submit grant requests to committee chair, Pastor Bev Piro c/o Phinney Ridge Lutheran Church, 7500 Greenwood Ave N, Seattle, WA 98103.

Charity To Justice

Plan to attend the upcoming *Charity To Justice* event from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, March 29, at Trinity Lutheran in Lynnwood. Our keynote speaker is Rick Steves, *Europe Through The Back Door.*

This will be an opportunity for educational and interactive opportunities to look at root causes and solutions to hunger and poverty and our transformation as we respond. The event will also include water and environmental issues.

Other speakers are: George Johnson, preacher/ workshop leader; Elizabeth Berthe, Grammen Bank in Seattle; Bill Kirlin-Hackett, Task Force on Homelessness; Roger Prois, ELCA Hunger Appeal; Cindy Kopperstad, Fair Trade; and Church of the Beloved musicians.

A free-will offering will be requested. Call or email to reserve a spot: Kristie Neklason at 206-795-4288 or Carol Wall at 360-320-9466; or worldhunger@lutheransnw.org. Please register now to help us with our planning

Lost and Found

by Pastor Gretchen Mertes, St. Matthew's Lutheran in Renotn

You are invited to a concert with *Lost and Found* beginning at 7 p.m. at St. Matthew's Lutheran in Renton on Friday April 18.

The music of *Lost and Found* is not easy to describe. Their music is unlike any style widely heard in Christian music. If you like unique, this is for you. Basically, *Lost and Found* is two guys playing acoustic instruments as hard and fast as they can and occasionally singing a ballad. Whatever the musical style, through *Lost and Found's* words, stories and concert, the message of God's love in Christ is easy to discern.

The group's songs have been recognized by publishers and others as some of the best around. In 1999, *Lost and Found* won Grand Prize in the John Lennon international songwriting contest.

Tickets $10/door, $8/advance, $6/groups 5+, free/kids 5 and under. You can also check out *Lost and Found* at www.speedwood.com

If you have any questions, would like to buy tickets, or want to help publicize the concert, please call me at 425-226-2420 or email me at pastor.gretchen@comcast.net. Don't miss a great event!

The Spirit

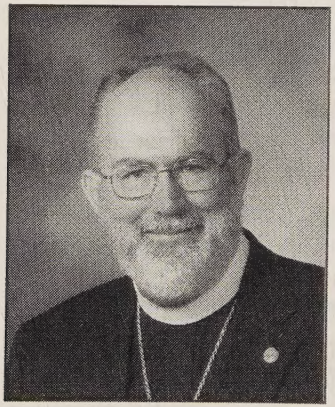
Volume 25, Number 3

News for the congregations of the Northwest Washington Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

March 2008

We Speak A Word That Cannot Be Silenced

by The Rev. Wm Chris Boerger, Bishop



Christ is risen!!
He is risen, indeed.
Alleluia.

With this ancient affirmation of the church we proclaim our hope in the face of everything that would lead us to doubt. We follow a resurrected Jesus. That simple fact gives us a new vantage point for engaging the world.

Much of today's news is motivated by the fear of death. Christ is risen!

Luther's famous hymn, *A Mighty Fortress is our God* proclaims that "take they then our house, goods, honor, child or spouse, though life be wrenched away, they cannot win the day. The

coming from a good teacher. How will I ever know if I have loved enough or forgiven enough or been truly effective at making disciples? The commands of a good teacher are no help by themselves.

When the teacher is my savior and lord, then the commands are not threats. They are rather ways to live out this resurrection promise in my life and with others in the community of the baptized. We have been forgiven, so we know the power of this action. We have been loved and we know the life giving power this love gives to us. We are the disciples who can call others to follow through the cross to the empty tomb.

As the church gathers to shout victory over death, we speak a word to the world that cannot be silenced. Christ is risen! Our

News and Notes

- The **SouperBowl of Caring** reports that as of February 13 more than $6,370,761 to feed the hungry and poverty was generated in 2008 representing 11,526 groups. In Washington State 150 groups participated to raise $ $31,450.10 and 6,876 cans. Some of the ELCA congregations that participated include: Kent Lutheran Church in Kent, Christ the King Lutheran in Snohomish, Holy Trinity Lutheran on Mercer Island, Faith Lutheran in Redmond, Ebenezer Lutheran in Lake Stevens, Trinity Lutheran in Everett, Edison Lutheran in Bow, Christ Lutheran in Ferndale, and Central Lutheran in Bellingham. Since 1990 more than $41 million has been raised. Learn more by visiting www.souperbowl.org. (The website now features an interactive map that shows which congregations have reported their Souperbowl fundraiser amounts.)
- **First Lutheran in Mount Vernon** provides a dinner meal the last Tuesday of every month at Friendship House, a shelter for the homeless.
- On Superbowl Sunday the congregation of **University Lutheran** had a service with a jazz theme. At the center of the service was a special jazz piece called Shelter in the Storm, by Joel Raney. The song was inspired by

God's Work. Our Hands.

2008 Northwest Washington Synod Assembly

The 2008 Northwest Washington Synod will be held on Friday, May 16, and Saturday, May 17, at the Everett Events Center in Everett.

Carla Berg (who chaired the 2007 Assembly and is a member of Sammamish Hills Lutheran in Sammamish) and Millie Fosberg (Christ the King Lutheran in Snohomish) are co-chairing the event. You can reach Carla and Millie at synodassembly@lutheransnw.org.

Monday, March 10 is the deadline for nominations and resolutions. The forms are available on the Synod website. The 2008 Synod Assembly voting members will be electing synod council members and 2009 Churchwide Assembly voting members. Voting members will also discuss and vote on the 2009 Northwest Washington Synod budget.

This year's theme is *God's Work. Our Hands.* The program is being coordinated by the Lay Theological Education Committee, chaired by The Rev. Eldon Olson. (ret.). Eldon can be reached at eldonolson@aol.com. Our churchwide representative is Carlos Pena, vice president of the ELCA.

Check the synod website often because due dates, forms and other important information will be added as they are made available (www.lutheransnw.org/assembly/2008).

two congregations in the city of Bellingham to offer severe-weather shelters. United Methodist Church provides shelter for women and children, and Faith Lutheran provides shelter for men. The shelters are open from 5 p.m. to 8 a.m. for homeless individuals when weather conditions could be life-threatening.

- **Congratulations to Faith Lutheran in North Lakewood.** Members celebrated their 100th year anniversary on February 17.
- The musical group ***Lost and Found*** will be playing beginning at 7 p.m. on Friday April 18 at at St. Matthew's Lutheran, 1700 Edmonds Ave NE, Renton. Tickets $10/door, $8/advance, $6/groups 5+, free/kids 5 and under. You can also check out *Lost and Found* at www.speedwood.com

of synod congregations and organizations. Congregations are encouraged to copy ***The Spirit*** and include it in their own newsletters. ***The Spirit*** can be downloaded from the Synod website.

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Website: www.lutheransnw.org

Information for the April 2008 issue of *The Spirit* is due to the Synod Office by Wednesday, March 5.

ministry of the church. Jesus did command that we love one another, make disciples of all nations and that we forgive one another. These commands can be threats if we only see them

us. Christ is risen! We have a reason for hope amid all the fears and terrors of this life. This is the reason and the power of our hope.

Christ is risen! He is risen, indeed. Alleluia.

Charity To Justice

Rick Steves, Europe Through The Back Door in Edmonds, is the keynote speaker at an event about poverty called *Charity To Justice*.

Charity To Justice will be held from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, March 29, at Trinity Lutheran Church, 6215 196th Street SW, Lynnwood.

This event will give you educational and interactive opportunities to look at root causes and solutions to hunger and poverty and our transformation as we respond. The event will also include water and environmental issues.

A free-will offering will be requested. Call or email to reserve a spot: Kristie Neklason 206-795-4288 or Carol Wall 360-320-9466; or worldhunger@lutheransnw.org. This event is brought to you by the Northwest Washington Synod's World Hunger Committee.

National Gatherings

Supporting The Ministry Of Women and Men

A National Gathering for Women

Be refreshed and inspired this summer at Women of the ELCA's Seventh Triennial Gathering, July 10-13 in Salt Lake City.

The gathering features worship, servant opportunities, and educational opportunities including workshops and speakers who will help us better understand our faith and what it means to live it out as baptized children of God.

Our featured speaker will be Sister Joan Chittister, O.S.B. And don't forget the fun and fellowship that comes from getting together with a multitude of Lutheran women just like you. Visit www.womenoftheelca.org/tg08 for more information and to register online. Bring your daughter, mother, friends, or relatives. We look forward to seeing you in Salt Lake City in July!

A National Gathering for Men

Coming of Age, the 2008 Lutheran Men's Gathering will take place Aug. 1-3, 2008 at the Omaha Nebraska Hilton and Qwest Center.

This year's theme has a two-fold meaning. One has to do with Men in Ministry's (LMM) emphasis on ministry with young men and the opportunities afforded at this event for men to build inter-generational relationships. The other has to do with this ministry maturing and standing on its own: coming of age.

Featured speakers will include former Nebraska coach and congressman Tom Osborne; Coming of Age authors David Anderson and Paul Hill; as well as Larry Clark, Ernie Hinojosa and others. Gathering musicians will include Dakota Road and Peter Mayer.

The event will not only feature prominent speakers and musicians but will also provide opportunities for men to serve and play.

Learn more about the 2008 *Coming of Age* Lutheran Men's Gathering by going to www.elca.org/lmm and clicking on the Winter 2007 Foundations newsletter. See you there!

Ernestine Anderson In Concert

The Foss Home and Village will host a Spring Concert at 5:30 p.m. on Friday, March 28, at the Everett Events Center in Everett. The concert will feature Ernestine Anderson, who has produced more than 30 albums and received Grammy nominations. She has performed with the Johnny Otis Bank, Ray Brown, Quincy Jones and others. Cost is $25/per person. To purchase tickets contact 206-834-2581. Tickets will **not** be sold at the door.

Within Our Family

To Keep In Our Prayers...

Within Our Family depends upon you—not only for prayers, but also for your prayer requests. Contact the synod office with any additions or changes to this column at office@lutheransnw.org or 206-783-9292, toll free 1-800-244-6997. This newsletter is shared among many people. The synod tries to limit personal information on the prayer list. Please consider contacting those on this list to let them know that you are holding them in your prayers.

We continue to hold in our prayers:

† **The Rev. John Ericksen and his wife, Marita**
† **Paula Ingebritson, wife of Pastor Joel Ingebritson, Bethlehem Lutheran in Seattle**
† **Arlett Nordsletten, widow of Pastor Olin Nordsletten**
† **The Rev. Roger Patrow (ret.)**
† **The Rev. Norris Stoa (ret.)**
† **The Rev. Malcolm Unseth (ret.)**
† **The Rev. Paul Wuest**

We pray for:

† Charles M. Sinn, father of **The Rev. Randy Sinn,** Faith Lutheran of North Lakewood, died on January 20. The family will gather for a private time of sharing memories and prayers. Cards may be sent to: Pastor Randy Sinn, Faith Lutheran Church of Lakewood, PO Box 70, North Lakewood WA 98259-0070. Peace to his memory.

† Marion Swain, mother of **The Rev. Mike Swain**, Burlington Lutheran of Burlington, died on January 31 after suffering a stroke. Cards may be sent to: Burlington Lutheran Church, 134 E Victoria Ave, Burlington WA 98233-1134. Peace to her memory.

† **The Rev. Phil Petrasek,** Christ Lutheran in Ferndale, has been diagnosed with prostate cancer. Phil's wife, Linda, is still dealing with treatment for her cancer. Please hold them both in prayer. Cards may be sent to: Christ Lutheran Church, PO Box 845, Ferndale WA 98248-0845

† **Elisabeth Wold, wife of Bishop Wold, Southwestern Washington Synod,** had back surgery on February 6 in Puyallup to alleviate pain she has been experiencing. Cards may be sent to: Elisabeth Wold, 1506 136th St Ct S, Tacoma, WA 98444.

† **Nan Beth Walton, Associate in Ministry,** Director of Music at Faith Lutheran in Seattle, will undergo surgery on February 20 for possible invasive cancer. Cards may be sent to: Faith Lutheran Church, 8208 18th Ave NE, Seattle WA 98115-4430.

† **Paul Anderson, Associate in Ministry,** recently experienced a significant exacerbation of multiple sclerosis, a disease he has lived with for twenty years. Cards may be sent to him at 9701 NE 200th St, Bothell WA 98011.

Supporting Our Russian Companion Synod

In 1999 the Northwest Washington Synod opened the door to a partner relationship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of European Russia (ELCER). While 14 congregations in our Synod are presently partnered with Lutheran congregations in European Russia, *Team Russia* was organized two years ago to motivate interest and support of ELCER by non-partnered congregations in the the NWWA Synod.

There are a large number of fledgling rural Lutheran groups, which cannot justify or support a full time pastor. These "congregations" are often groups of 15-20 people who meet in homes or rented rooms. ELCER is working to meet their pastoral needs through unordained preachers, and multiple point, itinerant pastors.

Plan now to attend this year's Russian Auction on Sunday, May 4, at the Nile Golf & Country Club in Mountlake Terrace.

The dinner is $45/person. For reservations and more info contact David and Renee McNeal, Holy Cross in Bellevue, rndmcneal@msn.com.

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Northwest Washington Synod Transitions

	Location/Event	Effective Date
Calls Accepted		
Paul Hermansen	Immanuel, Centralia	4/5/2008
Kari H. Reiten	Faith, Everett	1/2/2008
Kathleen McCallum Sachse	Holy Spirit, Kirkland	2/20/2008
Installations		
Kari H. Reiten	Faith, Everett	1/27/2008
Bill Walles	Shepherd of the Valley, Maple Valley	3/9/2008
Ordinations/Commissionings		
Kari Reiten	Gift of Grace, Seattle	1/20/2008
Retirements		
Mark Johnson	First Evangelical, Mount Vernon	9/1/2008
Resignation		
Richard Grinstad	Burlington, Burlington	1/13/2008
Tom Hamren	Light of the Cross, Bothell	1/31/2008
Transfers In/Out of the Synod		
Richard Grinstad	To Southwestern Washington Synod	1/13/2008
Paul Hermansen	To Southwestern Washington Synod	4/5/2008

Editor's Note: For the most up-to-date listing of transitions and mobility please visit our website at www.lutheransnw.org and click on Leadership. That website page is updated weekly, when necessary.

Transitions can be found on page 10

Northwest Washington Synod Mobility

In Call Process	Position	Status	Current Pastor, Interim Pastor, or Supply Pastor
Bothell, First Evangelical	PR	TR	Doug Stensby, Interim
Bothell, Light of the Cross	PR	NV	Cindy Salo, Interim
Burlington, Burlington	PR	NV	Michael Swain, Interim
Edmonds, Edmonds	A	P	Michael Ross, Pastor
Everett, Trinity	PR	I	Chris Anderson, Interim
Everett, Zion	PR	TR	Supply
Marysville, Bethlehem	PR	I	Neil Snider, Interim
Mercer Island, Holy Trinity	PR	TR	Kathleen Anderson, Interim
Oak Harbor, Oak Harbor	A/SP	I	Jerry Buss, Pastor
Seatac, Prince of Peace	A	P	Conrad Tollefson, Pastor
Seattle, Calvary	PR	TR	Supply
Seattle, Crown	PR	TR	Dan Selmann, Interim
Seattle, Faith	A/SP	NV	Nancy Winder, Pastor
Seattle, Luther Memorial	PR	TR	Karen Hanson, Interim
Seattle, St. Paul's of Shorewood	PR	TR	Supply

Mobility Position Key:

PR = Pastor
A = Associate
AIM = Associate in Ministry
DM = Diaconal Minister
A/SP = Associate with Special Emphasis contact Synod Office)

Mobility Status Key:

I = Interviewing
C = Calling
NV = New Vacancy
V = Vacancy
SC = Synod Call
TR = Transition process
P = Profile presented (receiving nominations)
TR/DO = Div for Outreach Transformation Process

Holden Youth Weekends

Registration for the 2008 Holden Youth Weekends is now open. This year's theme is *Digging into the Word* and will involve bible studies focusing on young heroes and heroines of the faith in scripture. The dates for the 2008 weekends are May 3-5, 10-12, 17-19, and 25-27. More information is available at www.tlc.edu/cyfcenter or email holdenmyw@tlc.edu.

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